IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/698,087 Confirmation No.: 1016

Applicant : Robert S. Howland Filing Date : October 31, 2003

Title : Multi Selective Axis Spinal Fixation System

Group Art Unit : 3733

Examiner : Eduardo C. Robert

Docket No. : 703716.4001

Customer No.: 34313

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 22, 2006, please amend the above identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.